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Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /060 W
----------054712 181033Z /14
R 180755Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8195
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
USICA WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 JAKARTA 5009

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, ID, SOPN
SUBJECT: RECTORS TASKED WITH NORMALIZATION OF CAMPUS LIFE

REF: (A) JAKARTA 4515 (DTG 070745Z APR 78)
(B) JAKARTA 4803 (DTG 130926Z APR 78)
(C) SURABAYA 0153 (DTG 130455Z APR 78) NOTAL

1. SUMMARY. THE RECTORS OF INDONESIA'S 40 LARGEST UNIVERSITIES HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE RESPONSIBILITY -- AND ONE MONTH'S TIME -- TO PREPARE FOR THE "NORMALIZATION" OF CAMPUS LIFE. ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE SOURCE, THE "NORMALIZATION" WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED IN STAGES, WITH CLOSER COOPERATION THAN IN THE PAST BETWEEN SECURITY AND EDUCATIONAL OFFICIALS. AMID CONFLICTING REPORTS ABOUT THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS NOW DETAINED, CAMPUSES THROUGHOUT INDONESIA REMAIN QUIET, WITH LITTLE NEAR-TERM PROSPECT
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OF DISORDER. END SUMMARY.

2. THE RECTORS OF INDONESIA'S 40 LARGEST UNIVERSITIES WERE SUMMONED TO JAKARTA APRIL 14-15 FOR CLOSED-DOOR CONSULTATIONS WITH MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE DR. DAOED JOESOEF, KOPKAMTIB COMMANDER ADM. SUDOMO AND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND SECURITY (HANKAM) INTELLIGENCE

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CHIEF MAJ. GEN. BEENNY MURDANI, AMONG OTHERS. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE RECTORS WERE TOLD THEY HAVE ONE MONTH TO MAKE PLANS FOR THE RESTORATION OF "NORMAL" CAMPUS LIFE AT THEIR RESPECTIVE UNIVERSITIES. IF DISORDER BREAKS OUT AGAIN, OR A PARTICULAR RECTOR FAILS TO COME UP WITH AN ACCEPTABLE PLAN FOR "NORMALIZATION," HE WILL BE HELD PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE. AT THE SAME TIME, THE RECTORS WERE URGED BY SUDOMO TO "BE MORE BOLD" IN TAKING WHATEVER STEPS WERE NECESSARY TO SUCCESSFULLY RUN THEIR UNIVERSITIES AND WERE PROMISED FULL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT.

3. ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE SOURCE CLOSE TO THE PALACE, THE GOVERNMENT ANTICIPATES THAT THE "NORMALIZATION" WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED IN STAGES. THE FIRST STEP, TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT THE END OF THE MONTH-LONG PLANNING PERIOD, WILL INCLUDE THE REACTIVATION OF STUDENT SENATES, THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE BODIES OF INDIVIDUAL FACULTIES WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY. LATER, CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO THE REACTIVATION OF THE UNIVERSITY-WIDE STUDENT COUNCILS, WHICH HAVE BEEN COORDINATING CENTERS FOR MUCH OF THE STUDENT DISSIDENCE. THIS SOURCE ALSO SAID THAT THE RECTORS OF THE MOST IMPORTANT UNIVERSITIES WERE HELD OVER IN JAKARTA FOR EXTRA SESSIONS WITH MURDANI, WHO STRESSED THAT -- UNLIKE IN THE PAST -- THERE WILL BE COMPLETE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE SECURITY APPARATUS AND THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE. THUS ANY INSTRUCTIONS CONFIDENTIAL

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LEVIED BY JOESOEF SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED AS HAVING THE FULL BACKING OF HANKAM AND KOPKAMTIB AND SHOULD BE STRICTLY HEEDED.

4. UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES THROUGHOUT INDONESIA ARE OPEN AND GENERALLY OPRATING NORMALLY. THERE CONTINUE TO BE SOME STUDENTS AT THE INVERSITY OF INDONESIA (UI) AND THE BANDUNG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE (ITB) WHO ARE PERSISTING IN ACADEMIC STRIKES, BUT THESE STRIKES APPEAR TO BE CONCENTRATED IN FACULTIES FROM WHICH A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS ARE STILL JAILED AND INVOLVE ONLY A HANDFUL OF STUDENTS.

5. THERE IS SOME CONFUSION ABOUT THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS CURRENTLY UNDER DETENTION. NO OFFICIAL FIGURES OF DETAINEES IN JAKARTA HVE EVER BEEN ANNOUNCED BY THE CAPITAL CITY SECURITY COMMAND (LAKSUS), THOUGH THE NUMBER IS ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT 50. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE MUSLIM PAPER PELITA, WEST JAVA MILITARY COMMANDER MAJ. GEN. SOETANTO SAID ABOUT 60 ITB STUDENTS ARE STILL BEING HELD IN BANDUNG, SUBSTANTIALLY MORE THAN PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /060 W
----------054841 181050Z /14
R 180755Z APR 78
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 JAKARTA 5009

ANNOUNCEMENTS HAVE INICATED. SOETANTO IS FURTHER
REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT THREE STUDENTS OF THE BOGOR
AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE (IPB) WERE ARRESTED ON MARCH 24,
LONG AFTER THE LAST KNOWN STUDENT ARRESTS. THERE IS ALSO
A SMALL CONTROVERSY BREWING OVER A STORY IN THE NATIONAL-
IST DAILY MERDEKA, WHICH CLAIMS THAT FIVE IPB STUDENTS
ARRESTED BY THE GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN "LOST," I.E., THEY
HAVE NEVER RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES AND THE GOVERNMENT NOW
DENIES HOLDING THEM. BOTH SOETANTO AND SUDOMO HAVE
LABELLED THE MERDEKA STORY "RIDICULOUS." REFERENCE C SUGGESTS
SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS ARE STILL BEING HELD IN
EAST JAVE, AND NEWSPAPER STORIES REPORT A
FEW ADDITIONAL DETAINEES IN NORTH, WEST AND SOUTH SUMATRA.

6. COMMENT. MANY STUDENTS REMAIN ESTRANGED FROM THEIR
GOVERNMENT, SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE NEW CABINET AND UPSET
OVER ISSUES LIKE THE CONTINUED DETENTION OF SOME OF THEIR
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COLLEAGUES. STUDENT LEADERS CONTINUE TO MOUTH IN PRIVATE

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THE DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE THEIR "STRUGGLE." NONETHELESS, THERE APPEARS LITTLE SHORT-TERM PROSPECT OF SIGNIFICANT CAMPUS UNREST. THE STUDENT MOVEMENT INEVITABLY NEEDS A BREAK AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS OF SUSTAINED ACTIVISM; THE MOVEMENT (ESPECIALLY IN JAKARTA) HAS NEVER FULLY REORGANIZED AFTER THE ARREST OF SO MANY STUDENT LEADERS; STUDENTS HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED ANEW, BY THE RECENT ARRESTS OF MUSLIM LEADERS WITH STUDENT TIES (REFERENCE B), WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO PRESERVE ORDER; AND MANY STUDENTS WILL WANT TO SEE WHAT "NORMALIZATION" OF CAMPUS LIFE REALLY MEANS BEFORE DECIDING WHAT COURSE TO TAKE. ALL THIS ADDS UP TO AN UNEASY-- UNDOUBTEDLY TEMPORARY -- QUIET ON INDONESIA'S CAMPUSES, AS BOTH SIDES PREPARE FOR THE NEXT ROUND.
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